



USAID
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PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT



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U K R A I N E

U.S. Ambassador Laid Flowers to Commemorate HIV/AIDS Victims

U.S. Ambassador William Taylor participated in an official ceremony commemorating World AIDS Day on December 1 at the HIV/AIDS Red Ribbon Monument in Kyiv. The Ambassador joined Minister of Health Yuriy Polyachenko, UN Special Envoy Lars Calling and other dignitaries in laying flowers at the foot of the large memorial to HIV/AIDS victims, which is located outside the HIV/AIDS Lavra Clinic, near the entryway to the Monastery of the Caves.



Ambassador William Taylor laying flowers at the memorial

In his remarks, Ambassador Taylor urged Ukrainians to learn more about HIV/AIDS. "There is so far no cure against HIV/AIDS. The only cure we have is information," noted the Ambassador.

Twenty-Six Certified Leasing Professionals to Help Develop Leasing in Ukraine

Twenty-six individuals who have passed all three Certified Leasing Professional Exams and have otherwise satisfied the requirements to become Certified Leasing Professionals received certificates on November 30 recognizing their achievements.

"These 26 awardees have attended the required number of training sessions and have passed three

tough exams," said USAID Mission Director Earl Gast in opening the award ceremony. "Many of these awardees will continue working with the Certified Leasing Specialist Program as trainers. It will be their responsibility to conduct training sessions for future candidates."



Earl Gast presenting a certificate to a course graduate

The Certified Leasing Specialist Program, implemented within the framework of the USAID's Access to Credit Initiative, is designed to increase the competencies of professionals working in the Ukrainian Leasing Industry, providing a pool of trained professionals that the leasing industry in Ukraine can draw on as the volume of funded leases increases in Ukraine. The certificates will help to instill a sense of pride and accomplishment among those who have satisfied the requirements to become Certified Leasing Specialists.

Declaration of Mutual Interest Signed in Kyiv

USAID and the National Assembly for the Disabled of Ukraine signed a Declaration of Mutual Interest on December 1, on the eve of International Day for the Disabled, which is commemorated on December 3. USAID Regional Mission Director Earl Gast and Member of Parliament Valeriy Sushkevych, who is also the chairman of the

National Assembly of the Disabled of Ukraine, took part in the event.



Smiles and a handshake after the signing of the declaration

The Declaration confirms the interests of both sides in protecting the rights of disabled Ukrainians; promoting equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities; building a society in Ukraine that will treat disabled individuals in a respectful manner; bettering their lives, and increasing awareness for issues affecting people with disabilities.

USAID Conference Develops Business in the Fruits and Vegetables Sector

The 3rd Annual Fruits and Vegetables Conference and Exhibition, sponsored by USAID's Agricultural Marketing Project, was held in Kyiv on December 5-6.



Petro Fedyna, head of "Agrodivir", a farmers cooperative in Lviv Oblast, and an AMP client

In addition to the development of business linkages, the conference has given impetus to development of a Fruits and Vegetables Farmers Association and a retailers association. The previous two

conferences improved contacts between input suppliers, farmers, wholesalers and retailers.

"What this project has shown, and what all of your actions have proved is that a market approach to agriculture is the one that will generate the most growth," said USAID Director Earl Gast in opening the conference. "We have a proven model of success, and what we hope is that this model, this market approach can be applied to the other sub-sectors of the agriculture sector, he added.

AMP is a four-year, \$7.5 million USAID-funded program implemented by Land O'Lakes International Development Division in partnership with its subcontractors – Informa Economics, Inc., Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), and the Ukrainian agricultural market information agency, APK-Inform, Ltd. The project's mission is to stimulate increased rural incomes and employment by enabling small and medium family farmers to identify and meet market needs profitably by enhancing quality and production efficiency, pursuing joint marketing efforts, and adding increased value to their products.

Journalists Learn New Technologies on Giving Birth in Ukraine

Two USAID-funded projects – the Mother and Infant Health Project (MIHP) and the Center for Ukrainian Reform Education (CURE) -- organized a joint training for journalists on November 14-15, 2006, in Lviv entitled, "The role of mass media in the new approaches to giving birth in Ukraine." The training brought together 17 journalists from Lviv, Uzhgorod, Ternopil and Chernivtsi Oblasts, regions where the MIHP does not have an organization in place.



Journalists at a MIHP site in Lviv

The trainees had an opportunity to learn about effective perinatal care in Ukraine, namely: family-oriented pregnancy, delivery and postpartum care.

They visited MIHP sites of excellence where they received information about the new techniques for effective and healthy mother and infant care, including family deliveries and parent/baby skin-to-skin contact.

International Conference Considers Ways for Better Use of Land Investment Potential in Ukraine

An international conference, "Efficient Use of Land Investment Potential for Economic Development in Ukrainian Cities," was held in Kyiv on October 26, initiated and organized by USAID's Local Economic Development (LED) project.

Gary Linden, USAID Office of Economic Growth Director, and Myroslav Pitsyk, Executive Director of the Association of Ukrainian Cities and Communities, welcomed participants, who included representatives from the Verkhovna Rada, the Ukrainian government, the Association of Ukrainian Cities, mayors, Ukrainian experts in market-based land use, as well as international experts from the United States and the Czech Republic.

Linden said that a challenging "key task for Ukraine today is to build on democratic and market principles regarding land use, to create conditions for positive economic and social development in urban areas." He added that a non-transparent and burdensome regulatory environment is among the major impediments to such development for Ukrainian cities. He also cited the lack of administrative-territorial reform and unclear delineation of city-owned land and state-owned land as major problems.

Two workshops – on land market infrastructure development and on land appraisal and pricing – were held within the framework of the conference.

A USAID Community Connections Program Alumnus Wins Web Design Contest

A USAID Community Connections Program alumnus, Boris Moskovskii, took first place in the All-Ukrainian Web Design Contest "US-Ukraine: Building Virtual Bridges through Cultural Exchange" for the web site: <http://vn.iatp.org.ua/vinnychyna/>.

The event was held in conjunction with International Education Week and conducted by the Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) in collaboration with the Public Affairs Section of the US Embassy in Kyiv.



Boris Moskovskii (left), winner of the web design contest

Boris Moskovskii participated in the Community Connections Program as part of a group that traveled from Vinnytsya to Wausau, Wisconsin, last September. The theme of the three-week program for the 10 participants was "Youth Advocacy".

Congratulations Boris!

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MOLDOVA

Moldova, United States Sign \$24.7 Million Millennium Challenge Corporation Threshold Program Agreement

On December 15, Moldova and the United States signed a \$24.7 million Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Threshold Program agreement aimed at reducing government corruption. Moldova will use MCC funding to address persistent corruption in the judiciary; the health care system; tax, customs and police agencies; and improve responsiveness and transparency in the Center for Combating Economic Crime and Corruption.



First Deputy Prime Minister Zinaida Greceanii and Mission Director Earl Gast sign the MCC Threshold Agreement

As a result of the Government of Moldova's hard work and commitment to the implementation of anti-corruption reforms, MCC's Board of Directors named Moldova as one of three countries newly eligible for Compact assistance in November.

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BELARUS

Joint UNDP-USAID Family Health Project in Belarus Approved

The UNDP/CORE Project Appraisal Committee held a formal review of recently submitted projects on November 15, and recommended approval of USAID's Family Health Project. CORE is a mechanism for coordination of efforts of international and local stakeholders aimed at technical and humanitarian assistance to the areas of Belarus affected by the Chernobyl disaster. The PAC meeting was conducted in cooperation with the municipality of Stolin, located in the Brest region.

USAID Belarus Country Representative Chuck Howell and Project Manager Jahor Novikau participated in plenary sessions and in a panel on health care and surveillance projects. While the panel sent back most of the projects for additional clarifications, the "Family Health" project was accepted with only one minor change requested. UNDP will begin implementing the USAID "Family Health" project upon formal registration by Belarusian authorities.



The Appraisal Committee sits in review

"Family Health" is a two-year, \$500,000 joint project between USAID and UNDP, signed on September 29, 2006, on the radio-ecological education of healthcare professionals, women of reproductive age, pregnant women and nursing mothers, secondary school teachers and schoolchildren in the Chernobyl-affected regions of Belarus.

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